

## MAN ARRESTED AFTER 2 SHOOTING DEATHS

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A 23-year-old man was arrested Thursday evening in connection with the shooting death of his girlfriend and her mother on Detroit's east side.

Police took Donnell Ramon Johnson of Detroit into custody around 4:30 p.m. Thursday after a 16-hour manhunt.

Johnson is suspected in the shooting deaths of his 22-year-old girlfriend, Rachel Johnson, and her mother, Nelda Grant, 51.

Police said the mother came to her home just after midnight on the 18000 block of Dean Street - near 7 Mile and Ryan - and found her 22-year-old daughter dead. Police said she called law enforcement and relatives.

Johnson either returned or had never left the home, police said. Police suspect he shot and killed Grant.

Rachel Johnson's 3-year-old daughter, Victoria, was unharmed and placed in protective custody Thursday.

Grant's close friend, Janice Estes, said she believes Rachel Johnson tried to end her relationship with **Donnell Johnson** before the shootings.

Grant had barred him from the home after he stole a family gun over the summer and later returned it, Estes said.

Estes said Grant was a teacher at a charter school and Rachel Johnson was a student at Macomb County Community College.

"They were extraordinary people. Very kind, very giving," she said. "I'm just devastated."

Estes said Grant called 911 after she returned home from a friend's house and found her daughter lying in a pool of blood. She then called her brother before the phone went dead.

Police said neighbors reported hearing arguing before gunshots. The shooting deaths are the latest in a bloody week in Detroit.

On Monday and Tuesday, seven people were shot, five fatally, in three incidents.

They also illustrate a surge of violence. The Free Press reported Thursday that there have been 408 homicides in the city this year, not including this morning's, a 14% increase from 2005's total of 359.

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION: Donnell Ramon Johnson was arrested Thursday in connection with the shooting deaths of his girlfriend and her mother.

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